



PRESS RELEASE
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For Immediate Release

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FIVE SENTENCED IN IDENTITY FRAUD CASE

Tampa, Florida - U.S. District Judge Elizabeth A. Kovachevich sentenced five defendants in District Court this week in Case No. 8:03-cr-54-T-17TBM.

Carl H. Alpert, 47, of Lake Mary, Florida was sentenced to a prison term of thirty years, to be followed by five years of supervised release, and was ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$1,705,611.51. Jennifer A. Alpert, 31, of Lake Mary, Florida was sentenced to a prison term of forty-six months, to be followed by five years of supervised release, and was ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$436,227.49. Leslie B. Barnes, 32, of Orlando, Florida was sentenced to a prison term of thirty-seven months, to be followed by three years of supervised release, and was ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$256,189.11. Jason W. Residence, 19, of Lake Mary, Florida was sentenced to a prison term of thirty months, to be followed by three years of supervised release, and was ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$215,057.69. Michael A. Buky, 25, of Lake Mary, Florida was sentenced to a term of three years of supervised release and was ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$299,036.93.

According to court documents, the defendants, through use of the United States District Court PACER system and other means, acquired biographical and credit information relating to other individuals, who were financially well-to-do, and who had been convicted of criminal offenses and were incarcerated. The defendants identified existing credit card and other bank accounts established in those victims' names and misappropriated (continued to use) those accounts. The defendants also fraudulently established new banking accounts in the victims' names. The defendants obtained money and other property by fraudulently negotiating credit card convenience checks, obtaining cash advances against credit and line of credit accounts, and by engaging in genuine and fraudulent point of sale transactions. The fraudulent activity involved in this conspiracy victimized at least thirty-five individuals, over twenty-four financial institutions, and generated losses in excess of \$1,700,000.

On May 14, 2003, Carl Alpert pleaded guilty to Counts One through Forty-Six of the Indictment, Leslie Barnes pleaded guilty to Count One, and Jason Residence pleaded guilty to Count One. Jennifer Alpert pleaded guilty to Counts One, Thirty-Four, and Forty-Five of the Indictment on April 29, 2003. Michael Buky pleaded guilty to Count One of the Indictment on April 20, 2003. Lawrence Smith pleaded guilty to Counts One, Nineteen, Twenty, Thirty-Five, Thirty-Six, and Forty-Six on August 7, 2003. Christopher Alpert pleaded guilty to Count One of the Indictment on June 11, 2003.

Lawrence Smith and Christopher Alpert are scheduled to be sentenced December 22, 2003.

This case was investigated by the United States Secret Service, Orlando Field Office, and prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Robert T. Monk.